

CWD IN WISCONSIN

STATEWIDE CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Three CWD-positive deer were identified near the south central Wisconsin town of Mount Horeb on February 28, 2002. This discovery prompted the most intensive wildlife surveillance effort known in the history of wildlife management.

Between February 2002 and March 2003, over 40,000 wild white-tailed deer were tested for CWD—thanks to hunters who submitted their deer for testing. Results from this surveillance effort are extremely valuable from a disease management and

research perspective as we try to learn as much as we can about CWD and eradicate it from the state.

WHAT WE’VE LEARNED ABOUT CWD IN WISCONSIN

- 1

After intensive statewide surveillance, no CWD-positive wild deer were detected outside of a small area of south central Wisconsin
- 2

Further research of CWD-positive deer indicates that the prevalence of the disease is higher in adult bucks than adult does. Male deer may be at higher risk for exposure to infection than females for one or more of the following reasons:

♥

Males have larger home ranges, increasing the likelihood of contacting CWD.

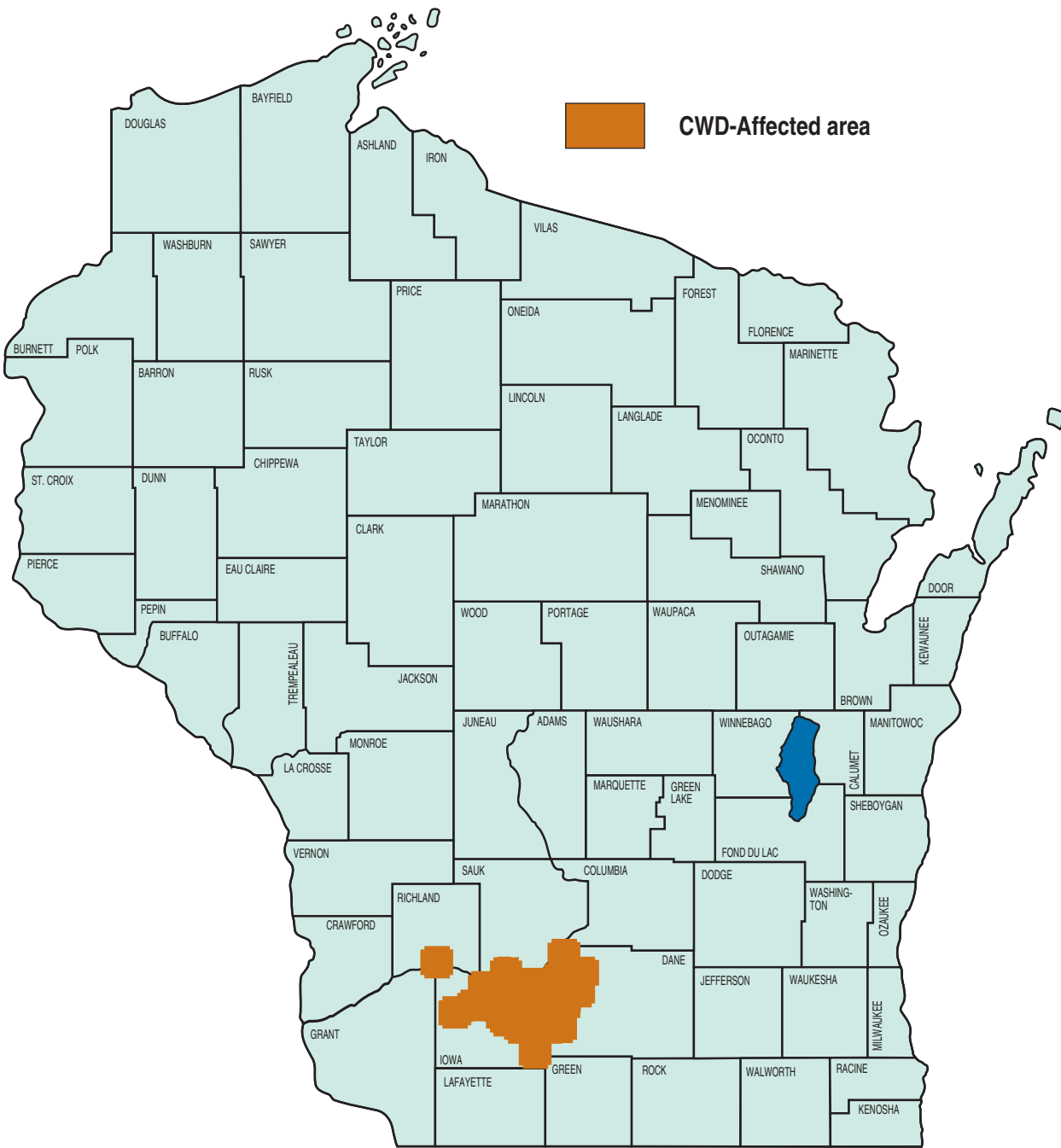
♥

Females could be passing CWD to males during breeding seasons when males visit many females.

♥

Males form bachelor groups where disease can be spread from close physical contact with other males.
- 3

The vast majority of deer in the affected region are genetically susceptible to CWD. Researchers have examined the prion protein gene from CWD-positive and CWD-negative deer and determined that at least 88 to 98 percent are of genetic type known to be susceptible to the disease.

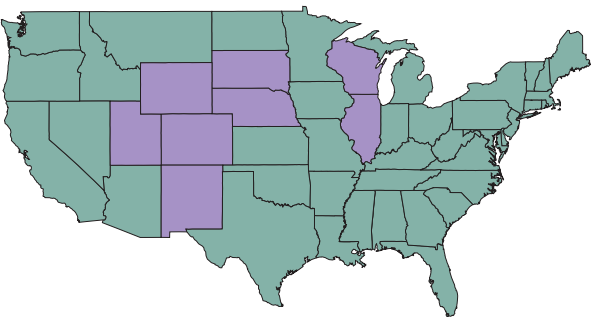


This map indicates where CWD-infected wild deer have been detected after intensive statewide surveillance.

HUMAN HEALTH

- ♥ Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an always-fatal nervous system disease of white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk. Visible symptoms include extreme weight loss, abnormal behavior, loss of body function, excessive thirst, urination and salivation, lowered head, and drooping ears.
 - ♥ There is no evidence that chronic wasting disease passes to humans from venison, but at this point it cannot be proven that it never will.

CLASSIC CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE IN HUMANS



**States with confirmed CWD
in wild populations**

- ♥ Classic CJD has been known for 70 years
- ♥ Occurs worldwide at rate of 1 case/1 million people
- ♥ Does not occur more often where CWD exists (see map)
- ♥ No link to contaminated meat

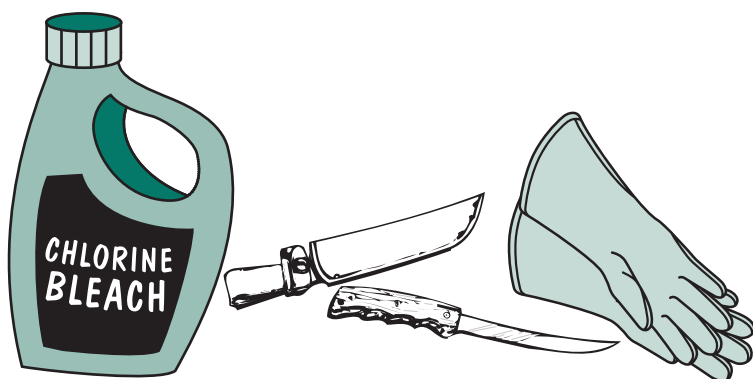
NEW VARIANT CJD APPEARED IN MID-1990s



- ♥ About 120 cases total
- ♥ Never seen outside of Great Britain and Europe
- ♥ Linked to meat from cattle with BSE, or “mad cow disease”

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HANDLING VENISON

- ♥ Don't eat brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, spleen or eyeballs from any deer or elk.
 - ♥ Don't eat any part of a deer or elk that looks sick.
 - ♥ Minimize handling brain and spine when field-dressing and processing.
 - ♥ Minimize or avoid cutting through bones or spinal column.
 - ♥ Fillet meat from bones with a knife.
 - ♥ Clean and disinfect cutting equipment with household bleach.



CWD MANAGEMENT IN THE WILD HERD



Our continuing goal is to eradicate CWD by drastically reducing the deer herd in the known infected area.

We are taking a “learn and adapt” approach to achieving this goal, meaning that strategies to eradicate CWD will be fine-tuned as disease research is completed and we learn more about the disease.

WHY DISEASE ERADICATION?

- Statewide surveillance results indicate that CWD is likely localized to a small area of south central Wisconsin.
- Best available science suggests that disease eradication is the appropriate management strategy for localized areas of infection.

The deer population needs to be reduced as quickly as possible in the area of infection. Science suggests that taking a “wait and see” approach to CWD management will allow the disease to spread and establish itself in new areas.

CWD MANAGEMENT ON DEER AND ELK FARMS

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has passed a permanent rule requiring the following of deer and elk farms:

- Mandatory Testing**—of all animals 16 months or older that die or go to slaughter
 - Annual accounting for all animals, alive or dead
 - Annual health certification
- Mandatory Monitoring**—for farms moving live animals off property
- Restrictions on Imports/In-state Movement**—only from herds under CWD surveillance

